

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6.

A SUGGESTION.

Inasmuch as there have been many lynchings in Kentucky of late, which it seems impossible to prevent, or even restrain, the Herald has a simple suggestion to make in the matter. It is this: That each jail or prison be provided with a strong iron-bound cell and that upon this cell there be placed a good double time-lock, the same that are used upon safety vaults and safes in banks. This would serve a double purpose—it would keep the prisoner safe from the hands of mobs and relieve the jailer from any trouble or responsibility in the event of an attack by lynchers. The time lock could be set to close and open at any time—say at six in the evening and six in the morning. Once closed the jailer would be powerless to release the prisoner as the lynchers themselves, and if the cell were made of good material the most profuse safe-cracker could not chisel the prisoner out before daylight. Once it became known that a jail was provided with one of these safe-proof cells, lynchers would hardly dare to attempt a hanging.

The cell need not be air-tight. Ventilation could be effected by oblique holes or apertures, arranged in such a manner that it would be impossible to shoot a bullet through them. The cell could be arranged in two or three apartments, with, if thought necessary, though the partitions need not be extra thick or strong, like the outside walls.

We believe the only way to prevent mobs is to take away from them, or place beyond their reach, the prisoner they wish to lynch. Many plans have been tried to stop lynching, but all have proved ineffective. The people and the laws are powerless to prevent lynching when the prisoner is within easy grasp. This has been fully demonstrated.

We might more fully explain our plan, but the idea is plain, and its construction would be easy in the proper hands. That it would save many lives and thousands of dollars we are confident, not to speak of the disgrace it would save the State. We believe the idea is a good one. Let's push it along.

PLUTOCRACY VS. THE PEOPLE. Slowly but surely the line of battle is manifesting itself and the people are beginning to more fully realize the conditions that confront them. It is now becoming manifest that the money question as advanced by free silver men in recent years is only an opening wedge into a clearer understanding of the evils that afflict the people. An inquiry into the extent of aggregations of wealth scattered profusely over the country reveals the fact that by force of circumstances the fast approaching a condition of affairs is a plutocracy in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the rich. When we pause to contemplate the fact that more than three-fourths of the vast property of this country is held by less than 150,000 persons, while the people themselves own less than one-fourth; that fifty men within the corporate limits of less than a dozen of our largest cities can control the entire markets of the country and dictate to consumers the prices they must pay upon the necessities of life—when we reflect upon this uneven and unjust condition of affairs, we are brought face to face with masters as they are. That such is the case is an acknowledged fact.

The recent campaign under the leadership of W. F. Bryan has created again this situation and unjust condition of affairs, a protest against the rapid and unbridled accumulation of millions in the hands of a few, made possible by our present expensive money system, and a plea for the people against their would-be lords, the money kings. Our country is celebrating a quarter of a million dollars used merely for recreation. Dinners that cost a small fortune are often given. We exhibit many other forms of luxury which only vast wealth can buy.

With the men who enjoy life under these splendid circumstances we have no quarrel to make. We would not rashly take from them their vast wealth and send it to the poor. It is a natural instinct of man to love wealth and the pleasures it brings. It is presumed and hoped

A CONDITION NOT BE TO BE LIVED IN.

“That seven men can meet death at the instance of mobs in Kentucky in ten years is the result of the law, the law is the result of the law, disallow a condition not to be tolerated, and it rests with the officials of that State to vindicate her name by any and every means necessary to the occasion.

There should be a law restraining the trusts and combines as they now exist. Our existing financial system should be changed. There should be a tax upon great incomes and estates, increasing as they accumulate after a stipulated point. No franchises should be granted only after due examination. In this way accumulations could be kept within reasonable limits.

The trouble is that a political party has dally-dallied with and honored these money kings until they feel themselves the sole sponsors for the country's welfare and do not hesitate to use the people's tools for their own aggrandizement. This is a matter of the most attention and no subject should command more earnest thought by the people than this all-absorbing topic.

This issue is coming upon us with more force and effect every day. The time is ripe; the conditions are present. Our congressmen and legislators should act at once to prevent the further advances of this sinister power. This is no idle talk, no farce. We hope for the support of all persons of every class who would preserve this country as “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Shall we have it?

The Louisville Post, one of those ultra and uncompromising gold-bug papers, in its issue of Monday evening says:

“It becomes more apparent that the sound money men have been betrayed by the political managers. As before, the most intelligent and far-sighted among us are forced to say that we prefer the national article.”

It is to the Post we give the answer to Mr. Bryan's question:

“If we want him, it is the height of folly to defer securing it until we have the support of the overwhelming mass of the European nations.”

The sentiment of these remarks is significant to say the least. When one of the rankest organs of the gold-bug theory is forced to come out plainly as quoted, it is sufficient to the utter hypocrisy of the Republican leaders to be witness to what is demonstrated in their attitude towards the tariff.

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WHAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING.

Republican papers for years have been teeming with denunciations of Democratic officials, as being abjectly pro-slavery. When Bryan and Bradley was elected Governor of Kentucky, he assumed his duties with a flourish and in his inaugural address declared that he would do what he proposed to do in maintaining the majesty of the law. How Governor Bradley has failed in carrying out his good intentions is told in the history of the State, and the idea of him taking the amount of money for enlightening them on their condition seems repulsive to him. But Bryan cannot hide his light under a bushel and it is useless for him to attempt it.

THE AMERICA OF LYCHINGS.

In Kentucky even lynching is done in so contemptuous a manner that the subject is left nothing to desire. For instance, the villainous and baseless mob did not hang the man of whom Christmas of 1896—“Spare Poor Fred,”

and the like.

They are having a toll-gate war in Clinton County, Ind., and forty-four prominent farmers have been arrested for chopping down the gates. The toll-gate gates were made openly during the day.

Capt. Gen. Weyler says that “society, bullets and hunger will soon terminate the revolution.”

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NOTE EXPLANATION.

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THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC HAS PASSED A COMPULSORY MARRIAGE LAW.

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